Cement shortage

667. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country is likely to face shortage of cement in the coming year;

(b) whether Government have identified the reasons of the shortage; and

(c) the steps Government are contemplating to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the past trend of growth in cement production, the schemes already approved for addition of fresh capacities, and the anticipated demand, no major shortage of cement on an All India basis in the coming years is envisaged. There may however, be some localised shortages mainly on account of regional imbalances in cement production capacity and transportation constraints.

(c) Following are amongst some of the important steps taken to maximise cement production to meet the growing demands:—

(a) Government is closely monitoring the availability of coal, railway wagons and other infrastructural support to the Cement Industry and remedial action is taken, wherever necessary.

(b) Scheme for increasing to installed capacity of cement are liberally approved.

(c) Liberal import of technology is allowed for technology upgradation, optimisation of capacity and energy conservation.

(d) In order to minimise the impact of regional imbalance railways have been requested to move cement from the surplus areas to the deficit zones.

Maintaining quality of food for defence forces

668. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any officials working in his Ministry for maintaining quality and purity of food for Defence forces; and

(b) if so, what are their designations, nature of duties performed by them, minimum qualifications required for their appointment and the pay scales of their posts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There is a Food Inspection Organisation in the Army Headquarters.

(b) A statement is attached. (*See* Appendix CLIX, Annexure No. 23)

Investigation against former Development Commissions (PI) and Assistant Development Commissioner

669. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stage of progress of investigation made against former Development Commissioner(PI) and Assistant Development Commissioner;

(b) whether the respective State Governments have been informed about the pendency of such investigations;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what were the details of the assets acquired by them and their families during their stay on such posts; and

(e) what are the details intimated by them to his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (e) There have been some complaints against these officers which are being examined in this Department.